



A Newsletter for Recycling Coordinators

## S.C. recycling rate increases slightly

The total amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled increased slightly in Fiscal Year 2003 (FY03) compared to the previous fiscal year according to the "State of Recycling in South Carolina" annual report compiled by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office).

More than 1.3 million tons of material – about 28.79 percent of the total MSW generated in South Carolina – were recycled in FY03 (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003). By comparison, about 1.26 million tons of material – about 28.70 percent of the total MSW generated in FY02 – were recycled. This is the third straight year that

the state's recycling rate has been about 29 percent. The national recycling rate is 29.7 percent according to the latest reporting (2001) provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

MSW is the combined residential, commercial, institutional/non-profit and industrial packaging/administrative waste generated. Overall, about 4.6 million tons of MSW were generated in FY03. Of that amount, about 3 million tons were disposed of in MSW landfills and about 201,000 tons were sent to the state's lone MSW incinerator while the remaining amount (about 1.3 million tons) was recycled.

The current recycling rate is about six points shy of South Carolina's recycling goal of 35 percent to be met by July 1, 2005.

"There is no question that the state's recycling rate has leveled off the past three years," said William W. Culler, director of the Office. "We will continue to work very closely to assist local governments any way we can. We believe there are certain areas that can be improved including the recycling efforts

of businesses and targeting beverage containers. We also want to encourage and assist local government in collecting the best numbers possible. There may be some programs, for example, which are under reporting."

South Carolinians disposed of 4.35 pounds of MSW per person per day (p/p/d) – a slight increase from the previous fiscal year. This figure is about a pound more than state's waste reduction goal of 3.5 p/p/d to be met by July 1, 2005.

Eight counties met the recycling goal and 23 counties achieved the waste reduction goal. Five counties – Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, McCormick and Sumter – met both goals. Of the counties that met both goals, the residential material collected for recycling accounted on average for only 20 percent of the total MSW recycled in that particular county. Other areas including commercial, institutional and office waste from industry significantly contributed to the counties meeting both goals.

South Carolinians recycled 1.75 p/p/d. That's slightly higher than the national average of 1.3 p/p/d according to the U.S. EPA.

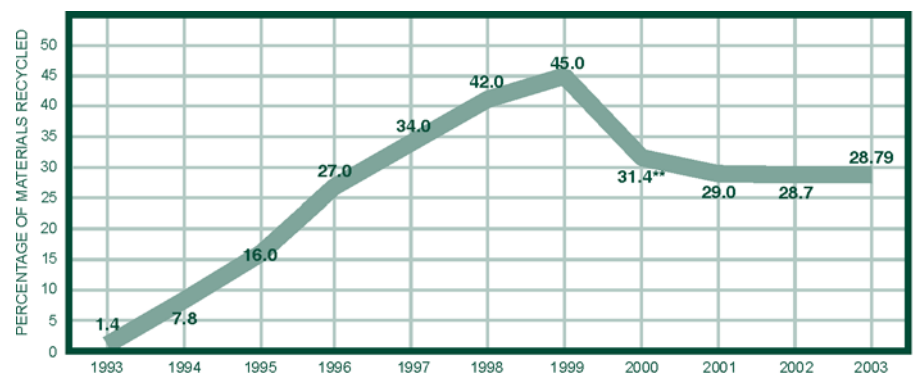
### 'Earth Today' wins Emmy Award

"Earth Today" – an environmental education program produced by Fisher Communications of Columbia for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) – has been named the winner of the 2004 Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Youth Television Programming by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The 30-minute program is modeled after NBC's "Today" show and targets middle school students. "Earth Today" presents students as anchors and reporters on a network morning news show who provide segments on a variety of environmental issues including air and water quality, energy conservation, recycling and litter prevention. It even features an environmentally themed "Concert on the Plaza" with "Eartha and the Recycle Guys."

*Continued on the following page*

### South Carolina's Recycling Rate\*



\* SOURCE: FY03 S.C. Solid Waste Management Annual Report

\*\* NOTE: Beginning in FY00, DHEC adopted the U.S. EPA's formula for measuring its recycling rate. This new formula includes only MSW and not the total waste stream that had been measured in previous years.

"We're very excited that 'Earth Today' has been honored," said William W. Culler, director of DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. "DHEC's environmental education and outreach staff are committed to provide the best materials and programs possible, but this recognition far exceeds our expectations."

Three students from Hand Middle School star in the program. Eliza Blackman plays "Kasey Coursic," Alex Dingman is "Latt Mauer" and Christopher Asuzi plays "Hal Croaker." Kaileen Yeh, from Crayton Middle School, rounds out the cast as "Nan Scurry."

"The kids were just great," said Kevin Fisher of Fisher Communications. "They gave terrific performances and put in long shooting days to do it. Emulating the 'Today' show was a tough task. It took very talented people to make it happen and we did it all right here in Columbia."

Partners who made "Earth Today" possible include the S.C. Energy Office, S.C. Educational and Instructional Television, S.C. Department of Education, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, PalmettoPride and International Paper.

Earth Day is celebrated April 22 of each year. "Earth Today" first aired on South Carolina ETV stations on Earth Day 2003, and was offered nationwide on PBS stations through a satellite link. The program was rebroadcast April 22, 2004.

A video copy is available by calling **1-800-768-7348**.

**NOTE:** The phrase "Emmy Awards" and the Emmy statuette are copyrighted trademarks of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), used by permission for national network and regional non-network television awards competitions licensed and sponsored exclusively by NATAS and its affiliate members.



*From left: William W. Culler, director of DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office), the S.C. Energy Office's Renee Daggerhart, Kevin Fisher, Holly Storey and Richard Chesley also with the Office.*

## New open burning rules take effect

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has revised its open burning rules to help improve air quality and to protect public health. To reduce pollution caused by the smoke emitted into the air from open burning, it is **ILLEGAL** to burn the following materials:

- household garbage and trash;
- paper/cardboard;
- motor and waste heating oils;
- roofing materials such as shingles and tar;
- tires and other rubber products;
- plastics;
- paints;
- household cleaners;
- farm chemicals;
- electrical wire; and
- insulation and duct work.

Burn barrels – frequently used to dispose of household garbage – are no longer allowed. Homeowners may burn yard trimmings if local ordinances allow and if it does not cause a public nuisance. Other types of outdoor burning that are allowed include: fireplaces; campfires; outdoor barbecues; and bonfires for festival occasions.

Fines for illegal open burning are high. In addition to posing health problems, open burning also can be a significant fire risk. Frequent brush, forest, and structure fires are attributed to open burning that got out of control. To find out if outdoor

burning is allowed in your area, contact your local DHEC Environmental Quality Control District Office. Also consult local ordinances for further restrictions on open burning.

Local contacts and other information about open burning are available by visiting the following Web sites:

- EQC District Offices, [www.scdhec.gov/eqc/envserv/](http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/envserv/)
- Revised Open Burning Regulations, [www.scdhec.gov/eqc/baq/pubs/2872eacrev\\_1.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/baq/pubs/2872eacrev_1.pdf)
- Open Burning Informational Resources, [www.scdhec.gov/eqc/baq/html/whatsnew.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/baq/html/whatsnew.html)

For more information about open burning, please call **(803) 898-3824** or e-mail [babicam@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:babicam@dhec.sc.gov).

### They're in the mail.

Fiscal Year 2004 Solid Waste Management Progress Report packets recently were mailed to all county recycling coordinators. This provides everything county officials need to complete their recycling and waste reduction activities for the past fiscal year.

Electronic copies of the packet materials also are available on-line as portable document files (PDFs). To view or print the PDFs, visit [www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/plan.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/plan.html) and scroll down to the PROGRESS REPORT.

Please note that all reports are due to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Mining and Compliance **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2004.**

For packet materials or additional information, call Pete Stevens at **(803) 896-4149** or e-mail [stevenph@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:stevenph@dhec.sc.gov). You also may call Elizabeth Rosinski at **(803) 896-4238** or e-mail [rosinsev@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:rosinsev@dhec.sc.gov).

# Commodity Update: PET

PET prices continue to hold steady between 14 and 18 cents per pound, almost double the 7 to 10 cents per pound the material was generating in May 2003. The biggest question for PET processors is how to get more supply.

"Even though the prices have doubled, we're not seeing a corresponding increase in collection tonnages by counties and municipalities," said Gerry Fishbeck, chairman of the South Carolina Recycling Market Development Advisory Council and vice president of United Resource Recovery, Inc., a Spartanburg-based PET recycling processor. "A common complaint during the past year was low prices were a disincentive for communities to increase their PET collections. It would seem obvious that with PET fetching higher prices, we'd see more PET being recovered, but that's just not happening."

According to a recent "Waste News" article (May 24, 2004), national PET recycling rates have dropped from 40 percent in 1995 to around 20 percent in 2002. PET collections have plateaued at about 800 million pounds per year. But the biggest concern U.S. processors have is that 280 million pounds – about 35 percent of the collected PET – is being exported to Asia.

In order to keep processors from shutting their doors, increasing recovery rates for PET are critical. The capacity to process more material exists, but rising prices generated by Asian buyers and tight supplies have hurt domestic processors. One of the nation's older processors, Amcor PET Packaging, announced in June that it would close its Novi, Michigan facility this summer. The Association of Post-consumer Plastic Recyclers has suggested that more closures may be on the way.

Representatives from the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council along with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling recently attended a Beverage Container Stewardship Forum in Chicago to discuss alternatives to increase recycling rates with other states, members of the recycling industry and representatives of the beverage industry. The forum was part of on-going effort by state government

officials to broker a collaborative, voluntary initiative that would increase recovery rates and foster a shared responsibility approach to managing materials like PET, glass and aluminum that have seen steady declines in recovery rates.

"The Council is committed to identifying and promoting new and effective ways to increase recovered PET supplies as well as other established recyclables. These programs must involve new funding to strengthen the collection infrastructure and ongoing community outreach in our state. Our success will depend on the support and involvement of producers of these recyclables," Fishbeck added.

## They are in the mail, too.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling recently mailed Full Cost Disclosure Reporting (FCDR) forms to each county and city administrator.

### COMPLETED FCDR FORMS ARE DUE TO DHEC BY OCTOBER 15.

Some noticeable changes have been made to the forms to make them easier to complete. Counties and cities that do not return the completed FCDR forms will not be eligible for grant funding.

If you have any questions about the FCDR forms, contact Stefanie Vandiver at (803) 896-4229 or [vandivsl@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:vandivsl@dhec.sc.gov).

## New brochure available for tire retailers

A new brochure is available to help tire retailers understand how the tire fee system works in South Carolina. The publication details recycling options and provides a list of approved rebate facilities. To receive a copy, call 1-800-768-7348.

# Grants Update

## GRANTS AWARDED

The Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) Waste Tire, Automobile Dismantler and Used Oil Grants have been awarded and confirmations were mailed July 1. In addition, the FY05 Solid Waste Grant application period has ended and applications are being reviewed. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) plans to award these grants on September 1.

## MINI-GRANTS OFFERED

The Office is offering grant funding to schools for recycling projects. Schools may receive up to \$1,250 or \$7,500 for an entire school district per fiscal year.

These "mini-grants" can be used by schools to buy recycling containers, organize and maintain a composting project, buy supplies for "Action for a cleaner tomorrow" lessons or supplies for a recycling club. Applications will be available in late July. **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 17, 2004.**

For a mini-grant application, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle) or call Tina Lindler at 1-800-768-7348 for more information.

## APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR COLLEGIATE RECYCLING GRANTS

Applications for the FY05 Collegiate Recycling Grant program will be available in late July. Public and private colleges/universities are eligible to apply for grant funding up to \$7,500. Funds may be used for equipment, supplies or educational materials for new recycling programs or to add to existing programs. **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 17, 2004.**

For a Collegiate Recycling Grant Application, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle) or call Tina Lindler at 1-800-768-7348 for more information.



# DHEC to present best attendant award

An award honoring South Carolina's best recycling center attendant will be added to the Recycle Guys Awards Program for 2004.

Each county recycling program is encouraged to nominate one recycling center attendant. Each nominee will be invited to attend the awards program on February 11, 2005 when they will all be recognized and a winner will be announced. Nomination forms for the

2004 Recycle Guys Awards will be distributed this fall.

The Recycle Guys Awards Program – sponsored by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling – is an annual event to recognize the state's top recycling programs, projects and people.

## RC Workshop scheduled for October

The 2004 Recycling Coordinator Workshop has been scheduled for October 25-27 at Pawley's Plantation in Georgetown County. Registration information, an agenda and additional information will be mailed later this summer.

If you have any suggestions for discussion topics, contact Sharon Thompson at (803) 896-4227 or [thompssr@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:thompssr@dhec.sc.gov).

## Annual reports on-line

The Fiscal Year 2003 Solid Waste Management Annual Report is now on the web at [www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/min.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/min.html). "The State of Recycling in South Carolina," a supplement to the annual report, is available on-line at [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html).

## RC Calendar

### JULY 2004

**JULY 15 – QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE FOR ALL GRANTS**

**JULY 20** – "Action for a cleaner tomorrow" (Action) Training Workshop, Laurens County

### AUGUST 2004

**August 2** – Action Training Workshop, Oconee County

**AUGUST 12** – Green Steps Workshop at Paper Stock Dealers, Columbia

**AUGUST 15 – FINAL REPORTS AND ALL REIMBURSEMENTS ARE DUE** for Waste Tire, Automobile Dismantler and Used Oil Grants

**AUGUST 19** – Green Driver Presentation, Keenan High School (HS)

**AUGUST 20** – Green Driver Presentation, Gilbert HS

**AUGUST 25** – Action Training Workshop, S.C. State University

**AUGUST 30** – Action Training Workshop, Francis Marion University

### SEPTEMBER 2004

**SEPTEMBER 13** – Green Driver Presentation, Marlboro HS

**SEPTEMBER 17 – DEADLINE FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**SEPTEMBER 20** – Action Training Workshop, Charleston Southern

**SEPTEMBER 24** – Green Driver Presentation, Spring Valley HS

For the most current schedule of events, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/calendar.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/calendar.html).

## GROW keeps growing

The Gardening and Recycling Organics Wisely (GROW) program is an integrated approach to gardening, landscaping and waste reduction. GROW focuses on many issues including soil enrichment, native planting, naturescaping, smart watering, composting and minimizing the use of chemical treatments.

The GROW program offers workshops to instruct S.C. residents interested in backyard composting. To date, 10 GROW workshops have been held including two in Greenwood County. More than 200 participants have attended. As an added incentive, some GROW workshops offer top- and bottom-lidded composting bins for \$25 each (an \$80-\$100 value).

For a brochure on how to sponsor a GROW workshop in your community, call **1-800-768-7348**. GROW is a partnership of the Office, Clemson Extension Service and the S.C. Soil and Water Conservation District.

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